

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Indian Affairs

Washington

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Supplement to Bulletin No. 20 on Indian Citizenship.

Indian Office Circular No. 1830, dated October 28, 1922, and re-printed as Indian Office Bulletin No. 20, gave brief information relative to the Indian citizenship question as it existed prior to June 2, 1924. Since the publication of that Bulletin, Congress passed an Act approved June 2, 1924, as follows:

"(PUBLIC--NO. 175--68TH CONGRESS.)
(H. R. 6355.)

An Act To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue certificates of citizenship to Indians.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all noncitizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States be, and they are hereby, declared to be citizens of the United States: Provided, That the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property.

Approved, June 2, 1924."

With this additional legislation, all Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States are now citizens.

It will be noticed that the title of the act states that it is an act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue certificates of citizenship to Indians. The bill as originally introduced in Congress was in harmony with the title but was amended in the Senate and passed and approved in accordance with the language of the act itself. In the rush during the last hours before adjournment of Congress, the title did not get changed to agree with the body of the act. However, that fact does not invalidate or change the act as passed, and consequently no certificates are necessary and the Indians automatically became citizens upon the approval of the act.

With the receipt of citizenship, Indians become eligible to vote under the same conditions as other citizens of the respective States. The Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides that

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color or previous conditions of servitude."

The Indians must of course, conform to the conditions equally required of other citizens, such as registration, educational requirements, etc. A number of States are known to have made special plans for the registration and voting of Indians since the passage of said Act of June 2.

It will also be noted that the act provides that the granting of such citizenship shall not in any manner impair or otherwise affect the right of any Indian to tribal or other property. Therefore, the restrictions upon the trust property--real or personal--of Indians are not removed by the passage of this act. Questions relative to the control or management of trust property are therefore not changed by the act but are to be handled on their own merits as heretofore.